IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

From:

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<u>AMENDMENTS</u>

In the Specification

At page 1, before the "Technical Field" section, insert the following paragraph in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(ii):

~RELATED PATENT DATA

This patent resulted from a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/332,271, filed June 11, 1999.~.